

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12
/109 W

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P R 231215Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USINT BAGHDAD
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJ: OPPOSITION ATTACKS GOVERNMENT WHILE INTERNAL BICKERING
CONTINUES
REF: ANKARA 4606 (NOTAL)
1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: OPPOSITION PARTIES
HAVE BEGUN TO ATTACK ECEVIT GOVERNMENT ON TWO GROUNDS:
(1) PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S
PARTY (RPP) MAY HAVE RECEIVED ILLEGAL COMMISSIONS
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FROM TOBACCO SALES, AND (2) THE GOVERNMENT'S
HANDLING OF THE RECENT CLASH BETWEEN BARZANI AND
TALABANI FORCES IN SOUTHEASTERN TURKEY. AT THE SAME
TIME, LEADING JUSTICE PARTY (JP) FIGURES ARE PUBLICLY
CRITICIZING ONE ANOTHER AND OPENLY DISPUTING THE
PARTY'S OPPOSITION STRATEGY. IN THE ABSENCE OF CLEAR EVIDENCE
OF A MAJOR SCANDAL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE CURRENT OPPOSITION

CRITICISM WILL HURT ECEVIT. END SUMMARY

2. OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN HAVE ATTACKED ECEVIT GOVERNMENT ON TWO NEWLY DEVELOPED ISSUES IN RECENT DAYS. PRESS HAS ALLEGED SOME COMMISSIONS ON TOBACCO EXPORTS PAID BY MINISTRY OF CUSTOMS AND MONOPOLIES IN 1977 MAY HAVE BEEN SIPHONED OFF BY RPP DURING ITS ONE MONTH IN POWER LAST YEAR. JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN DEMIREL HAS MADE DAILH REFERENCES TO THIS PURPORTED CASE OF CORRUPTION, AND ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HE CLAIMED ON JUNE 22 THAT PROOF OF RPP WRONGDOING COULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT. MINCUSTOMS AND MONOPOLIES MATARACI HAS PROMISED A THOROUGH REPORT TO THE PUBLIC, AND HE FLEW TO ISTANBUL JUNE 22 TO CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION PERSONALLY. THE RPP HAS DENIED ACCUSATIONS OF RECEIVING ILLEGAL PAYMENTS, AND PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL MUSTAFA USTUNDAG ON JUNE 22 TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE ALLEGATIONS ARE PART OF A PLOT TO UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO BEING ASSAILED FOR ITS RESPONSE TO THE CLASH OF BARZANI AND TALABANI FORCES IN TURKEY'S REMOTE HAKKARI PROVINCE.
--ON JUNE 22 A NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) DEPUTY SUBMITTED A MOTION FOR A PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY AGAINST PRIMIN ECEVIT AND MININT OZAYDINLI FOR THEIR HANDLING OF EVENTS IN HAKKARI.
--ALSO ON JUNE 22 NAP CHAIRMAN ALPARSLAN TURKES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUBLICLY DEPLORED CLASH OF OUTSIDE FORCES IN TURKEY AND "TRAMPLING OF THE SOVERIGNTY RIGHTS OF THE NATION."
--JP CHAIRMAN DEMIREL SHARPLY CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING INCIDENT TO TAKE PLACE AND CLAIMED THIS WAS FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC FOREIGN FORCES HAD CLASED ON TURKISH SOIL.
--ADDING HIS CRITICISM, JP MAVERICK SENATOR KAMRAN INAN TOLD A TURKISH NEWS AGENCY THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN HAKKARI.

4. WHILE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTACK THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, JUSTICE PARTY RIVALS HAVE ALSO ATTACKED ONE ANOTHER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AT THE JP CAUCUS ON JUNE 21 CHAIRMAN ASPIRANT SENATOR INAN CRITICIZED DEMIREL FOR HIS ATTACKS ON ECEVIT WHILE THE PRIMIN WAS IN THE US TRYING TO PLACE TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE WEST ON A SOUNDER BASIS. RESPONDING TO INAN'S REMARKS, FORMER FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL REPORTEDLY TOLD THE JP CAUCUS THAT INAN'S CRITICISM OF DEMIREL WAS UNFORTUNATE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE. HE CHIDED INAN FOR QUESTIONING DEMIREL'S COURTING THE SOVIET UNION AND REPORTEDLY SAID, "WHILE IN POWER WE DID MAKE AN

OPENING TOWARD THE EASTERN BLOC, BUT WE DID NOT BRING
TURKEY CLOSER TO THAT BLOC." END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CLASSIFIED. COMMENT: OPPOSITION SNIPING
AT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WITH CAHRGES OF WRONGDOING
AND INEPT HANDLING OF THE HAKKARI INCIDENT DO NOT
NOW SEEM TO THREATEN ITS STABILITY. FIRM EVIDENCE OF A
SCANDAL COULD HURT THE RPP, BUT EVEN DEMIREL WHILE PRIMIN
WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE SEVERAL YEARS OF PRESS REPORTS
OF SHADY ACTIVITIES BY HIS NEPHEW AND BROTHER. THE
OPEN BICKERING WITHIN THE JP OVER ITS OPPOSITION
STRATEGY IS NOT NEW. INAN CONSIDERS HIMSELF THE LEADING
CANDIDATE TO REPLACE DEMIREL AS PARTY CHAIRMAN, AND
HE HAS LONG THOUGHT THAT DEMIREL SHOULD HAVE NAMED
HIM FONMIN IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. BECAUSE OF THEIR
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RIVALRY FOR PRIMACY IN JP FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION,
INAN AND CAGLAYANGIL ARE ALSO OFTEN AT LOGGERHEADS. END LIMITED
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SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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